

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05375 251405Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SYE-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 HA-05 PA-01 ICA-11 DODE-00 /047 W
-----047974 251410Z /50

P R 251322Z JULY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2737
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5375

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY/CC, A/SY/OPS/FO AND EUR/EX
FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PORS, ASEC, TU, US
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

REF: ANKARA 4538 (NOTAL)

1. AT 2130 HOURS, JULY 25, U.S. AIR FORCE SECURITY
POLICEMAN AND HIS PASSENGER, A U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER WERE
ROBBED AT GUN POINT ON AN UNLIT ROAD THAT RUNS ALONG THE
PERIMETER OF ANKARA (BALGAT) AIR STATION. THE AMERICANS
WERE DRIVING A USAF VEHICLE AND WERE STOPPED BY APPROXIMATELY
FIVE MEN ALL OF WHOM WERE ARMED, ONE WITH A "MACHINE GUN".
THE AIRMEN WERE FORCED TO DRIVE A SHORT DISTANCE TO A MORE
SECLUDED SIDE ROAD. THE ARMED INDIVIDUALS THEN HAD THE
AMERICANS CRAWL ON THEIR STOMACHS APPROXIMATELY 50 YARDS
OCCASIONALLY STRIKING THEM WITH PISTOL OR GUN BUTTS
BEFORE ROBBING THEM AND THEIR VEHICLE, AND DEPARTING THE SCENE.
BOTH AMERICANS WERE UNHARMED. THE ARMED INDIVIDUALS APPEARED
TO BE YOUNG MEN WHO SPOKE TURKISH WITH OCCASIONAL HALTING
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WORDS OF ENGLISH. THEIR IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN AND THEIR
MOTIVE IS ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN ROBBERY.

2. THIS ROBBERY FOLLOWS THE JUNE 15 INCIDENT IN WHICH THE
EMBASSY'S COUNSELOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHARLES COURTNEY,
WAS STOPPED WHILE DRIVING THIS SAME ROAD AT APPROXIMATELY THE

SAME TIME IN THE EVENING. IN THE COURTNEY INCIDENT, HOWEVER, IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER ROBBERY WAS THE ORIGINAL MOTIVE (SEE REFTEL).

3. FOLLOWING THE COURTNEY INCIDENT BOTH THE EMBASSY AND U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE ADVISED AGAINST USING THE PERIMETER ROAD TO GAIN ACCESS TO ANKARA AIR STATION. THIS ROAD HAS NOW BEEN PLACED "OFF LIMITS" TO U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE ARE CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION.
DILLON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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